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Authority NND979520By EE NARA Date 11/8/91

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PRIORITY

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DE RUMJPG #2381 3430310

P 090234Z DEC 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4580

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY 2691

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 280

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 579

AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1845

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2381

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (FORU, GERALD) PFOR CH

SUBJECT: TENG HSIAO-PING COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

1. VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING HOSTED A FAREWELL LUNCHEON DECEMBER 6 FOR USLO CHIEF AND MRS. BUSH IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE (MUNA HAS REPORTED ONLY THAT TENG "MET" THE BUSHES). THIS UNUSUAL GESTURE BY TENG FOR A DEPARTING CHIEF OF MISSION IS BEING WIDELY--AND WE THINK CORRECTLY--INTERPRETED IN PEKING (DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES AS (1) ANOTHER INDICATION OF CHINESE PLEASURE WITH THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT AND (2) A MARK OF THE PRC LEADERSHIP'S ESTEEM FOR BUSH PERSONALLY.
2. TENG BEGAN THE PRE-LUNCHEON CONVERSATION BY COMMENTING THAT THIS WAS "AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON TO SHOW OUR GOOD RELATIONS." SOON AFTERWARDS HE SAID, "THE RESULT OF YOUR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CHINA IS GREATER THAN WE EXPECTED. EVEN YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE FEELS THE SAME WAY."
3. AT THE TABLE TENG REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO BUSH'S "PROMOTION," AND AT ONE POINT OFFERED A TOAST TO IT.
4. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE LUNCHEON WAS RELAXED AND CONVIVIAL. TENG SMOKES LESS THAN USUAL AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA PRACTICED HIS QUITE GOOD ENGLISH (AT ONE POINT CALLING ACROSS THE TABLE TO ADDRESS USLO CHIEF AS "GEORGE"). REMINISCING ABOUT THE LUNG MARCH, TENG REMARKED THAT HE HAD BEEN 31 AT THE TIME, BUT THAT A GREAT MANY ON THE MARCH HAD BEEN YOUNGER THAN HE, IN

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

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THEIR TWENTIES. (HE MAY HAVE WANTED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE LONG MARCHERS AROUND FOR A GOOD WHILE YET.) TENG SPOKE PROUDLY OF BEING FROM SZECHUAN, AND SAID THAT IN THE PAST HE HAD TRIED TO VISIT HIS HOME PROVINCE AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR. WHEN BUSH REMARKED THAT THE CUISINE OF HUNAN (MAO'S HOME PROVINCE) WAS, LIKE SZECHUAN'S, VERY HOT, TENG RESPONDED HUMOROUSLY THAT HUNAN COOKING WAS ONLY A SUB-SCHOOL OF SZECHUAN COOKING, THOUGH HE SUPPOSED THAT IN SAYING SO HE LEFT HIMSELF OPEN TO THE CHARGE OF BEING A "GREAT PROVINCE CHAUVINIST."

5. CHINESE ATTENDING THE LUNCH RESIDED TENG AND CHIAO WERE ALL MFA OFFICIALS: PROTOCOL DIRECTOR CHU CHUAN-HSIEN AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR TANG LUNG-PING AND AMERICAS AND OCEANIA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR LIN PING PLUS LIN'S PRINCIPAL SUBORDINATES DEALING WITH US AFFAIRS INCLUDING TANG WEN-SHENG (NANCY TANG). ONLY NOTABLE ABSENCE WAS THAT OF VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG. WANG, HOWEVER, HAD EARLIER HOSTED A FORMAL FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR THE BUSHES.

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